

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

[0018] The present invention provides an improved security-tethering system that can be used in many different applications, but is particularly adapted for use with hand held personal electronic devices. FIGS. 1 and 2 show one embodiment of a new security tethering system 10 according to the present invention that generally comprises a retractable tether apparatus 12 that is integral with a hand-held electronic device holstering system 14. The system also has an integral belt or ~~waste~~ waist band attachment element, to mount the system 10 to a belt or ~~waste~~ waist band, with the preferred attachment element being a belt clip.

Please amend paragraph [0019] as follows:

[0019] In the tethering system 10, the holstering ~~attachment system~~ system 14 can be arranged in many different ways and as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, generally comprises an elevated slot sized to hold a pivoting ball within the slot. This type of arrangement is similar to the holstering attachment in Nokia type mounting systems that are known in the art. The holstering attachment is compatible with the pivoting ball that is typically attached on the back of Nokia phones as part of the phone's holstering system. It should be understood that many different holstering attachments could also be used with different security tethering systems in accordance with the present invention.

Please amend paragraph [0022] as follows:

[0022] It can be appreciated that tethering systems according to the present invention incorporate a retractable tether apparatus 12 and electronic device holstering system 14 in one assembly, with the holstering system 14 being integral with one of the surfaces of the retractable tether's housing 16. The tethering system 10 can be mounted on the user's belt or ~~waste~~ waist band and an electronic device can be mounted to the holstering system 14 so that the electronic device is securely mounted to the tethering system 10. The tether from the retractable tether apparatus 12 is attached to the electronic device and ~~retracts~~ extends from the tether housing 16 when the electronic device is in use. If the electronic device is dropped during use or is jarred from the holstering system 14, the tether does not ~~retract~~ further extend from the tether apparatus 12 under the weight of the electronic device. This prevents the electronic device from falling to the ground. By incorporating the holstering system and tether into one device, a tethering system is provided that is less bulky and easier to use.

Please amend paragraph [0023] as follows:

[0023] FIG. 3 shows a personal electronic device 20 mounted to a tethering system according to the present invention, with the tethering system mounted to a user's belt 22. The tethering system is hidden between the electronic device [[22]] 20 and the user with a lanyard loop 24 running from the lanyard attachment [[26]] 18 to the electronic device 20. In other embodiments according to the present invention, the electronic device [[22]] 20 can connect directly to the lanyard attachment 18. The

lanyard loop 24 can be a string, rope or other length of flexible and durable material that is attached at one end to the lanyard attachment 18 and at the other end to the electronic device 20, which in this case is a cell phone. An attachment ring 28 can be included on the electronic device 20 as the attachment point for the lanyard loop 24.

Please amend paragraph [0026] as follows:

[0026] Referring again to FIGS. 1 and 2, tethering systems according to the present invention allow personal electronic devices to be easily and conveniently used, while at the same time providing an arrangement that securely attaches the phone to a user when it is not in use. For example, the tethering system can be mounted to the user's belt clip 19 with holstering ~~attachment~~ system 14 on the outside surface of the housing 16. The personal electronic device, such as a cell phone, can include a pivoting ball on its back surface that is compatible with the holstering attachment 14. The electronic device is then mounted to the system 10 by mating the pivoting ball with the holstering attachment 14. The cell phone is held out of the way while still being within arms reach. If the cell phone is jarred from the holstering ~~attachment~~ system 14, the weight of the cell phone will not retract the tether and the cell phone hangs from the system 10 by the lanyard loop 20. This arrangement prevents the device from falling to the ground.

Please amend paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] The holstering system 14 can also include hold pin, which is known in the art and is arranged to hold the pivoting ball

within the holstering system 14. To remove the cell phone from the holstering system 14 for use, a lever on the attachment 14 is activated to retract the pin and release the pivoting ball. The phone can then be removed from the holstering system 14 and pulled to the user's ear. The tether is pulled from the retractor housing 16 under the pulling force, but the tension required to extend the tether is not so great that it interferes with the use of the phone. If the phone is dropped at any point during ~~[[is]]~~ its use, the tether prevents it from falling to the ground. When the phone is done being used it is moved back to the tethering system 10 where it can be remounted in the holstering system 14. The tether automatically retracts into the housing. When not in use, the device is securely mounted to the front of the tethering system.

Please amend paragraph [0028] as follows:

[0028] During use of the tethering system 10 the lanyard attachment 18 and tether extend upward from the housing, which is particularly convenient for devices that are used above the mounting point of the system 10, such as with cell phones. In other embodiments, the line/tether can protrude outward from the housing and away from the user, which is particularly convenient for devices used at approximately the same height as the mounting point for the tethering system 10. For example, when a PDA is used it is held in front of the user, which can be more compatible with an outward protruding tether. The tethering system 10 can also include a disconnect means so that the electronic device ~~[[22]]~~ 20 can be detached from the lanyard attachment 18. In another embodiment, the tethering system 10 is

arranged so that it can also rotate about the user's belt or ~~waste~~ waist band by the clip 19.

Please amend paragraph [0029] as follows:

[0029] FIG. 4 shows another embodiment of a tethering system 40 according to the present invention that is similar to the system 10 and has a housing 42, belt or ~~waste~~ waist band attachment element 44, tether and lanyard attachment (not shown). The pin used for retaining the pivoting ball in the Nokia type holstering ~~attachment~~ system 14 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 can be damaged if the cell phone is jarred when it is mounted to the system 10. To address this problem, the tethering system 40 includes a holstering system 46 that is different from the Nokia type holstering ~~attachment~~ system 14.

Please amend paragraph [0030] as follows:

[0030] The holstering system 46 is U-shaped and sized to fit the same pivoting ball used for the Nokia type holstering attachments. It is, however, longer than the Nokia type attachments and does not have a retaining pin. The holstering system 46 has three mounting points to the housing 42 with the first and second mounting points 48, 50 near the base of holstering system 46, and the third ~~attachment~~ mounting point 52 being at one of the legs of the holstering system 46. The other leg 54 is not attached to the housing 42, but instead serves as a "living hinge" to hold the pivoting ball in the holstering system 46. As the pivoting ball passes into the ~~attachment~~ holstering system 46 the pivoting ball forces the leg 54 to flex out, increasing the size of the opening in the holstering system

46. As the pivoting ball passes through the opening, the leg 54 flexes back in, reducing the size of the opening. This reduction in the size of the opening helps hold the cell phone in the holstering system 46 when the cell phone is not in use. If the jarring force is great enough to force the pivoting ball past the leg 54, the holstering system 46 will not be damaged and the tether prevents the phone from falling to the ground.

Please amend paragraph [0032] as follows:

[0032] FIG. 5 shows the internal components of one embodiment retractable tether system 60 according to the present invention that that is similar to tether system 10 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. It generally comprises first and second housing halves 62, 64 that are mounted together to form the tether housing. A reel 66 is included in the housing upon which the tether winds under the bias and internal spring. The system 60 also includes a ratchet locking lever 68 arranged to operate a ratchet locking system 70. A holstering ~~attachment~~ system 72 is mounted to the first housing half 62 by mounting screws 74.